THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production of foodgrains and oilseeds in the country during 2002-2003 *vis-a-vis* 2001-2002 is as given in the Statement below :

(Million Tonnes)

	2002-2003*	2001-2002	% Fall in 2002-2003
Foodgrains	184.06	212.02	13.19%
Oilseeds#	15.57	20.46	23.90%

* Third Advance Estimates as on 4-4-2003.

Includes groundnut, castorseed, sesamum, nigerseed, rapeseed and mustard, linseed, safflower, sunflower and soyabean.

(c) and (d) As the stock position of foodgrains in the country is well above the buffer norm, there is no crisis. No unusual price rise in case of foodgrains is anticipated. In fact, the annual rise (point to point) in Wholesale Price Index (Base : 1993-1994) of foodgrains as on 5-4-2003 was 4.7% as compared to 6.2% for all commodities. Thus, the price-rise in case of foodgrains has been lower than the overall price rise.

As regards oilseeds, the import of edible oils is allowed freely. This would help bridge the gap between domestic demand and production, and also help in reducing the pressure on the prices.

NAIS in Punjab

3729. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of farmers benefited by Crop Insurance Scheme in Punjab during the year 2002-2003, district-wise; and

(b) the amount received by the farmers under this scheme and the role played by the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The Punjab State Government has not opted for the implementation of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) till date.

(b) Question does not arise.

Expenditure on R & D for Agriculture

†3730. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.